

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 00428 261320Z

46

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 032320

P 261145Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6002

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 428

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, LE, SY

SUBJ: POSSIBLE EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS BETWEEN
LEBANON AND SYRIA

REF: BEIRUT 772

1. FRANKLY, IDEA STRIKES ME AS GIMMICKY BUT IN ANY
EVENT UNLIKELY TO BENEFIT FROM IDENTIFICATION WITH
U.S. AS SPONSOR.

2. CAN ACCEPT THAT EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS
MIGHT BE MEANINGFUL TO LEBANESE AS SYMBOLIC REASSURANCE
SYRIANS DO NOT INTEND SWALLOW THEM UP. I AM PERSONALLY
CONVINCED SYRIA HAS NO SUCH AMBITION TO DO SO. LEBANON,
AS FAR AS PRESENT SYRIAN LEADERSHIP IS CONCERNED, HAS PURSUED
ITS ABERRANT DEVELOPMENT IN AREA FOR SO LONG
THAT IT WOULD PROVE INDIGESTIBLE.

3. HOWEVER, IF IDEA WOULD MEAN SOMETHING TO LEBANESE,
IT WOULD SEEM MAKE MUCH MORE SENSE IF THEY
THEMSLEVES BROACHED IDEA TO SYRIANS. IN DAMASCUS
WE HAVE FOR MANY MONTHS LARGELY LIMITED OUR PRONOUNCE-
MENTS ON LEBANON TO EMPHASIZING U.S. CONCERN FOR
LEBANON'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, COUNSELING NON-
INTERVENTION AND PASSING WORD THAT WE DID NOT SUPPORT
EXTREMIST CHRISTIANS. FOR US TO FEED SYRIANS IDEA OF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 00428 261320Z

EXCHANING DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, I BELIEVE, WOULD RESTOKE

SYRIAN SUSPICIONS THAT WE REALLY ARE FAR DEEPER IN GAME OF
BEIRUTT POLITICAL MANEUVERINGS THAN WE HAVE BEEN WILLING
TO CONFESS.
MURPHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, DIPLOMATIC MISSION OPENING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DAMASC00428
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760029-0126
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760122/aaaaatgm.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 BEIRUT 772
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <13 OCT 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS BETWEEN LEBANON AND SYRIA
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, LE, SY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006